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Announcer:President Ford has refused to say whether he approves or disapproves of former President Nixon's upcoming trip to China. At a New Hampshire news conference Mr. Ford would only repeat a White House Comment that Mr. Nixon would be travelling as a private citizen. When Mr. Nixon arrives in Peking Feb. 21, he will be the first prominent American to be in a position to assess the new situation in China after the appointment of a new acting premier. Mr. Ford said that former President Nixon had no commitment to report to him when he returns from China, and the President said he had no obligation to ask Nixon for a report. Former President Nixon has issued a statement on his forthcoming trip. Daniel Schorr has details:

Schorr: Mr. Nixon today recalled his 1972 visit to China as the start of a new and constructive relationship, indispensable to peace, and said he's going back because "this relationship is, if anything, more important today than it was four years ago." The ex-President's first statement on the China trip was given to his former speech-writer, William Safire, a New York Times columnist, and made available to CBS News tonight. It did not directly explain why Mr. Nixon changed his original plan to avoid any such emergence from private life until after the November election. But he appeared to be suggesting that ~~that~~ the pressure for an early visit came from Peking, perhaps connected with the failing health of Mao Tse-tung or other internal developments. Mr. Nixon's statement concluded: "When I return I will be spending time in San Clemente completing work on my memoirs." It was as though to reassure President Ford that it was still his plan to stay out of public life during the election campaign. Daniel Schorr, CBS News, Washington,

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